



Ask Your United States Question

June 7, 2017

Question 1:

Caron: Looking for more info about Augustus Willard Gilman, born 20 Oct 1833 possibly in Wallingford, CT. I am unable to find birth information in FamilySearch. His parents, John Gilman & Polly Doolittle, were married in 1838 in Shrewsbury, VT. Can you give me any resources in CT records outside of FS that could help locate birth, and possibly listing of parents for Augustus? I have looked at Barbour already online. Thank you

1. Barbour collection was searched
2. Early census records -- where did John and Polly live in 1830?
3. Look for a 2nd marriage for Polly or Augustus in town records or in Barbour Collection or NEGHS website
4. Possible illegitimate birth, look at court records for guardianship
5. Town records for Shrewsbury, Vermont and Wallingford, Connecticut
6. Death record for Augustus Gilman, also his marriage record may give information about his parents
7. Search probate records
8. Locate the marriage record for John and Polly. Melody found the marriage for Augustus: John GILMAN, Spouse Polly Dootille, Microfilm Number 27559, 10/21/1838, Shrewsbury, Rutland, Vermont, United States. From marriage: Augustus was born in Wallingford, lived in Shrewsbury, Vermont from the information on his marriage record in Shrewsbury, father is J. Gilan, bride is Nancy Willard. John's groom card has officient so follow up on that to find the church where he married. The church marriage may give more information. <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-6QG8-KG?i=5024&cc=1784223>
9. NEGHS website <https://www.americanancestors.org/databases/vermont-births-marriages-and-deaths-1700-2008/image/?volumeld=14166&pageName=3724&rlid=259110331>
10. FSWiki: record selection table https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Record_Selection_Table
11. Research guides for Vermont and Connecticut
12. Rutland Library resources
13. Name variations for Gilman/Gilmon

Question 2:

Doris from Saskatchewan: trying to find a slave master for Phoebe Johnson, born 1858 in Lowndes County, Mississippi. Her mother was Minerva Johnson, born about 1835 in Mississippi or Virginia. Phoebe's spouse Agrippa Latson was in Hinds County, South Carolina. Phoebe married in 1873 in Washington County, Mississippi to a Agrippa Latson, he was 15 she was 12, when they married. He signed a \$200 bond at the time of their marriage. They had one son, Samuel born in 1874.

Agrippa's last name was spelled with a t in Mississippi and a d in South Carolina. James Ladson of Georgetown County, South Carolina may have been the slave owner. He died in 1868. Phoebe's entire family is on the census and are sharecroppers.

1. Slave schedules for 1860
2. Freedman Bureau records
3. Didn't purchase the property where they sharecropped: find the owners of the property now and do a search of the title to see who owned it at the time they were sharecroppers.
4. County marriage records
5. Doris didn't find the surname of Johnson in the county.
6. No Johnson slave owners in 1860 census in 1860 for Lowndes County, Mississippi
7. Slaves often had different surnames from slaveholders --
8. 1850 census for Lowndes County, Mississippi find out if there are any Johnson slaveholders
9. James Ladson may have inherited Phoebe as real property, so look in probate
10. Trace Phoebe's siblings forward
11. What happened to Minerva? She is in the 1870 census after that she disappears and Doris doesn't know what happened to her.
12. Check probate records for a Minerva
13. Check into personal property
14. Trace any family (understanding that 'family' is more than bio-family in this context)
15. James Latson may have been sold from South Carolina to someone in Mississippi. A wealthy slaveholder sold rice and corn. There was better land in Mississippi and a lot of the slaver owners left to go to Mississippi.
16. Research FAN research Quicklesson
<https://www.evidenceexplained.com/content/quicklesson-11-identity-problems-fan-principle>
17. US newspaper directory at LOC <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/> The Newspaper DIRECTORY shows what newspapers are in libraries, not just the online papers
18. Check records for the son Samuel to see if there is anything available for him.
19. Newspapers in the area, particularly African-American records
20. Church records
21. Mississippi Enumeration of Educable Children, 1850-1892; 1908-1957 lists colored schools, she may of went to school after civil war
22. Find all of Minerva's descendants to see if they have any family traditions, stories that have been passed down.
23. DNA (Doris and her twin sister have both done DNA) She found cousins and 2nd cousins.
24. Many slaves remained on property, Samuel may be listed on her school record

25. Contact genealogical or historical societies in the area
26. Trace some of the Latson descendants to see if any of them have any information from the plantation records
27. For Freedman's bureau records the new mapping site is helpful
<http://mappingthefreedmensbureau.com/>
28. Persi: Check PERSI for anything in the localities involved for other case studies and see what sources those authors used, <http://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/periodical-source-index>
29. Mississippi Wiki resources https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/African-American_Resources_for_Mississippi
30. Look at all the slave owners in Lowndes or Hinds County, Mississippi. Doris indicated there were quite a few slave owners in 1860. See if there are children about the ages of 2 to 3 or so.
31. Work up a comparison study of the 1850 census & 1840 census to see if a slave matches the age of Minerva with a Ladson family.
32. Follow some of the top African-American genealogists on social media and watch for new resources coming online like Tony Burroughs, African-American research, Angela Walton-Raji, Damani Davis at NARA, Robin Foster for South Carolina
33. African-American Resources at the National Archives
<https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans>